

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing to a contributor information related to goods or services offered by the contributor and one or more other contributors, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. compiling information related to the goods or services offered by the contributor and the one or more contributors;
- b. creating an information database of the compiled information, wherein the information database is segregated into a first information group of the information related only to the contributor and a second information group of the information related to the one or more other contributors; and
- c. enabling the contributor to access the contributor's own first information group, and to access information of the second information group without permitting the contributor to determine what specific information was provided by which of the one or more other contributors of the second information group, provided the information accessed from the second information group includes a defined minimum amount from the one or more other contributors.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the information includes goods or service features, sales information, pricing information, demographic information, and time period information obtained from the one or more contributors, other non-contributor parties, or a combination of both.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of denying to the contributor access to selected information from the second information group if the contributor does not provide to the information database the same type of selected information of the contributor's own.

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of enabling the contributor to access and query the database directly for specific market information of interest.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- a. enabling the contributor to define a query of the compiled information based on individual portions of the information or selectable combinations of individual portions of the information to create unique outcomes; and
- b. generating statistics based upon the outcomes obtained based upon the query.

6. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the step of generating statistics includes the steps of:

- a. calculating statistics related only to the first information group;
- b1. defining a minimum amount of the information related to the particular query to be required to process the query ~~made by the querying contributor exists;~~
- b2. determining with respect to the second information group whether the defined minimum amount of information exists; and
- c. presenting to the querying contributor information only for defined information of the first information group and of the second information group meeting the restriction of step b2.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of storing a portion or all of the output of any query of the database.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of transferring a portion or all of the output of any query of the database to an electronic spreadsheet.

9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of enabling the contributor to supplement information of the first information group with the contributor's selectable information such that the selectable information is accessible only by the contributor.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of enabling the storage of attributes of a query for subsequent retrieval.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 10 further comprising the step of enabling the retrieval of a stored query and re-use or modify the stored query to create a new query.

12. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of enabling the contributor to access the contributor's own first information group and to access information of the second information group without permitting the contributor to determine what specific information was provided by which of the one or more other contributors of the second information group includes the steps of:

- c1. in response to a query from the contributor, ~~e<sup>1</sup>~~ defining a minimum amount of the information related to a particular query made by the querying contributor to be required to process the query; ~~e<sup>2</sup>~~
- c2. ~~defining~~ determining with respect to the second information group whether the defined minimum amount of information exists; and
- ~~c3.~~ presenting to the contributor the requested information only for defined information of the second information group meeting the restriction of step ~~e<sup>2</sup>~~ c2.

13. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of enabling the contributor to access its own first information group and to access information of the second information group without permitting the contributor to determine what specific information was provided by which of the one or more other contributors of the second information group includes the step of establishing rules of access to information of the second information group.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the contributor seeking access to the information database does so through a graphical user interface represented on a display of a computing device through which the contributor accesses the information database, the method further comprising the step of configuring one or more outputs of the information accessed into summary representations.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of configuring the graphical user interface to present a summary depiction of database query options and queries made.

16. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the information database includes a plurality of cells of information organized based on values, the method further comprising the step of configuring one or more outputs of the information accessed into summary representations organized by parameter.

17. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 16 further comprising the step of establishing rules for suppressing certain ones of the plurality of cells for summary representation.

18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of configuring one or more query options for the contributor to query the information database for display on a computer display in a format that eliminates from display a query option not applicable to the defined portion of information to be queried.

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of configuring a computer program to enable querying of the information database by the contributor, analysis of the information acquired in a query, and reporting of the information, wherein the program may operate on a computing system of the contributor independent of any other programs running on the same computing system.

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of establishing standardized query formats and output formats selectable by the contributor.

21. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of presenting database information obtained from a query into a format relating the contributor's corresponding information from the first information group to corresponding information of the second information group.

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of enabling the contributor to query the information database for information of interest and limiting query options to be consistent with values of the information database.

23. (Currently amended) A method for providing to contributors in one or more industries market information related to the offerings made by the contributors, such market information including market information of contributors and non-contributors, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. surveying each contributor for defined public and private product or services information;
- b. compiling the defined public and private product or services information obtained from all surveyed contributors and market information from non-contributors;
- c. creating for each contributor an information database of the defined public and private product or services information obtained from all contributors and the market information of the non-contributors, wherein each contributor's information database is segregated into a first information group of an individual contributor's particular defined public and private product or services information and a second information group of the compiled defined public and private product or services information of all other contributors and of the market information of the non-contributors; and

- d. enabling each contributor to access the contributor's own first information group and to access information of the second information group without permitting the contributor to determine what specific information was provided by which of the one or more other contributors of the second information group, provided the information accessed from the second information group includes a defined minimum amount from the other contributors.

24. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising the step of configuring an output according to one or more parameters unique to a particular querying contributor as defined by that querying contributor.

25. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising the step of enabling the contributors to access and query the database directly for specific market information of interest.

26. CANCELLED.

27. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising the step of denying to a querying contributor access to selected information from the second information group if the querying contributor does not provide to the information database the same type of information of the contributor's own subject of the query.

28. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the contributor is enabled to access either or both of the contributor's own first information group and the second information group through an authorized user.

29. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 23 wherein each contributor is enabled to access either or both of the contributor's own first information group and the second information group through an authorized user.

30. (Currently amended) A method for providing to a contributor information related to the goods or services offered by the contributor and one or more other contributors, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. compiling the information related to the goods or services offered by the contributor and the one or more other contributors;
- b. creating an information database of the compiled information, wherein the information database is segregated into a first information group of the information related only to the contributor and a second information group of the information related to the one or more other contributors; and
- c. enabling the contributor to access the contributor's own first information group, and to access information of the second information group without permitting the contributor to determine what specific information was provided by which of the one or more other contributors of the second information group, and provided the contributor has provided to the information database information of the same type sought from the second information group.

31. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the contributor is enabled to access either or both of the contributor's own first information group and the second information group through an authorized user.